SEVERAL

Living Testimonies

Given forth by divers Friends

TO THE

Faithful Labours and Travels

Of that Faithful and Constant

Servant of the LORD

Robert Lodge

Who was a true Minister of the Gospel of Christ, a Valient Sufferer for the Testimony of a good Conscience, & one that held out to the end, and is saved.

ALSO,

Two General Epistles, written by himself long since, to the Believers in Christ; And are now Printed for their Edification and Refreshment.

The Name of the Righteous shall be had in Everlasting Remembrance, &c.

Printed for *T. Sowle*; And Sold at the Crooked Billet in *Holloway-Lane*, *Shoreditch*, 1691.

The Testimony of *Peter Hardcastle* concerning the Life and Death of *Robert Lodge*.

THis our Friend and Brother, a Servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, *Robert Lodge*, I was acquainted with before we were gathered to be a Meeting, to sit down in silence to wait upon God in his Light; for he then lived near me, with one related to me, and we had much discourse about Religious matters, and he saw the Errors of the Priests more clearly than I did, and was serviceable to me at that time: But after this, it pleased the Lord to send his faithful Servants amongst us to Preach the everlasting Gospel, and they directed our minds to the Light

of it in our Consciences, and many were convinced of the way to eternal Life and Salvation; and thus were we gathered to be a Meeting, to sit in the silence of Flesh, waiting upon God in his Light. And in process of time, we being gathered in the Name of the Lord Jesus, he made his Power known in our Meeting in an admirable manner, to the renting of the Vail, and breaking down the partition Wall, and raising our Souls from Death unto Life, which caused great Joy and Comfort in us and amongst us. And by the Power and Spirit of Life (after a little time) our deceased Brother *Robert Lodge* was moved to go into *Ireland*, to bear Testimony with other Brethren of the everlasting Truth, and way of Truth and Salvation; and having done his Service there at that time, he returned again into *England*, and travelled in many parts of it, and went into *Ireland* again, and travelled in both Nations to visit the Gatherings of

the Lord's People, and to stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance of the manifold Mercies and Favours, and Loving-kindnesses of God which he hath made known unto his People in this our day, after the long Night of Apostacy. And the Prophecy of *Daniel* is fulfilled in this our Age, where he saith, *Many shall run to and fro, and Knowledge shall be increased*; and he saith also, *They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the Firmament, and they that turn many to Righteousness as the Stars for ever and ever*, Dan. 12. And he was Instrumental in the hand of God to turn many to Jesus Christ, God's Righteousness, the sure Foundation and Rock of Ages, which yields living Water unto the Soul; and so his Testimony reached to the Witness of God in the Consciences of many; and I have been many times sweetly refreshed under his Testimony and Ministry: Oh the sweet Union, and Society, and Fellowship

we have had together in the Gospel, it breaks my Heart, and tenders my Spirit at this time when I am writing these Lines! I loved him before we were gathered, and much more since, because of his Sincerity and Truth in his inward parts; for he kept his first Love and Habitation in the Truth. And he was Instrumental also for building up in the holy Faith, that the Spirit of Opposition and Separation might not get advantage to draw us from the Spirit and Power of our Lord Jesus Christ; he was committed to several Prisons in this Nation, and in *Wakefield*-Prison he wrote an Epistle to Friends; and when he suffered Imprisonment, or otherwise for the Testimony of the Truth, he was kept in patience, and rested in the will of God: So he having kept the Faith and Patience of our Lord Jesus, and dying in the Lord is at Rest, his Body is in the Grave, but his Spirit is with the Lord Jesus, and with the Spirits of

just and holy Men and Women, who have ſerved the Lord in their day, according to his Will revealed unto them by his holy Spirit; Praiſes, Honour, and Glory to the Lord God and the Lamb for evermore.

So I having known him ſo long a time, and ſome of his Tryals and Exerciſes, and faithfulneſs to God and his Truth, I could not well but give this ſhort Teſtimony concerning him,

Peter Hardcaſtle *ſenior.*

Thomas Whitton his Teſtimony concerning the Life and Death of *Robert Lodge*.

THat the Memory of the Juſt may be had in Remembrance, and the Travel of the Righteous in future Ages not forgotten, this Teſtimony I have to bear for our dear Friend *Robert Lodge*, who is now gone, whoſe Exerciſes and Travels are at an end, and I doubt not but that he is at reſt with the Lord; He was a man whom I knew above this thirty Years, even from his Youth, who received the Truth in his tender Years in a large meaſure, and the Lord hath made him a very ſerviceable Inſtrument in his hand, for gathering many to the Way of Life, out of the ways of the World, and that in his young Years, both in this

this Nation and also in *Ireland*, as many can testifie; and not only so, but the Lord hath, as I may truly say, made him a Son of Consolation amongst his People, to the watering and refreshing of many weary Souls; his Travels in Spirit I knew (being one of the same Meeting) even for the hindmost of the Flock, and his sympathizing with those that travelled for the same. I also knew him in the helping on the Work of the Lord; and when that Life and Power of God rose in him in a Meeting to the opening his Mouth, the Lord hath made his Words as the *Balm* of *Gilead* to the broken hearted: Much might be said of his Service in and for the Truth in his day; and toward the closure thereof he laboured with and for the young Friends, that they may come up in the Footsteps of those who are gone before, and at Rest with the Lord, with many and frequent Supplications,

ons to the Lord for them, that they might walk as becomes the Truth in their Generation. The time of his Sickness was short, but about three or four days, and about three or four days a little ill before, I going to see him, asked him how he did, and how it was with him; he gave me account of his Distemper and Infirmness, and did question his recovery of the same, *But*, saith he, *the Lord knows my Heart, and that I have served him; and it hath been of more account to me the gaining of one Soul, than all my Labours and Travels.* So I have great cause to believe he was in a good sence of the Recompence of his Reward; so leaving him very weak that night, and I going again next day with my Sister to see him, finding him near to Death, and being beside him in great brokenness of Heart to part with such a near Friend he as one sympathizing with us, said, *We shall meet again in Eternity:*

Then

Then a little time after his Mouth was opened, and in great power and tenderneſs, with heavenly Expreſſions and Praiſes to the Lord; and after ſome time again, I went to him, and told him, I was come to take my leave of him, but thought to ſee him next day; then he named me by my Name, and ſaid, *It is well with me, and I have no diſturbance in my mind*: He ſpake theſe words as a man at eaſe, from whom the Lord had taken Sin away, which is the ſting of Death; this being about the third hour in the Afternoon, and he departed this Life that Night, it being the 15th of the 7th Month, 1690.

And though his Body be gone to the Earth, yet the Memorial of his Life and Spirit lives with us, as it is written, *For the Righteous ſhall be had in everlaſting Remembrance, and pretious in the ſight of the Lord is the Death of his Saints, for they reſt from their Labours, and their Works follow them,*

them, and they live in that Life which is hid with Christ in God.

And indeed a Lamentation might be taken up for the loss of such an Instrument in the Hand of the Lord, who had laboured and gathered many (by that powerful Word of Truth which the Lord put into his heart) unto God, and also to the refreshing, watering, and consolating of the Heritage of the Lord in that meek lowly Spirit of Life and Love, which very frequently did run through him, and reached the Life in others, for which I cannot but praise the Lord for the many Visitations of his Love in our Meetings; but this bears up our Spirits, that as the Lord hath begun so great a work in our day for his Truth and Name sake, he will carry it on to his own praise, and will not leave himself without a witness upon the Earth, that from Age to Age, and one Generation after another his own

Works

Works may praise him, who is God, and changes not, to whom be everlasting Praise for evermore.

He was buried at Low-Ellington, *at the Burying-Place for the People of God, the* 17*th of the* 7*th Month,* 1690. *And was accompanied with many Friends of divers parts, and Neighbours also, being one well-beloved of the Neighbourhood; and there was a living and serviceable Testimony for God born that day by our Friend* George Myers, *to the great satisfaction and refreshment of Friends, and to the Convincing of others.*

T. W.

The Testimony of *Miles Oddy* concerning *Robert Lodge*.

AS concerning my dear Friend and Brother *Robert Lodge*, I have had knowledge of him ever since that day it pleased the Lord God in his Mercy and Favour to visit us, and make his Power known, and manifest himself both to him and me, and many others in these parts; and though he was very young (even a Boy) yet the Lord did wonderfully appear unto him in his great Love, and God's eternal Power did mightily seize upon him, and operate in him, so that he was constrained thereby to open his Mouth, and make mention of God's Eternal Power, even when we were but a few;

few; and God's witness was much reached in several present with us, blessed and praised be the Name of God for evermore: The mighty Power of God did work wonderfully at that very time in the Hearts of those whom the Lord had touched, and also made to believe, but especially in the Heart of our dear Brother above-mentioned, and thereby in the Lord's due time was he fitted, imboldened and raised up, and made an Instrument in God's hand, and a true and faithful Minister of Jesus Christ, and sent forth by him to preach the everlasting Gospel into some parts of this Nation of *England*, and in a short time into the Nation of *Ireland*, where he met with many great Tryals and Exercises, yet the Lord did mightily preserve him, and attend him with his blessed presence. What shall I say or write concerning this our dear Brother in the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Lord hath been

been now pleaſed to take away from us; ſurely the loſs is very great unto many of God's People, but unto him great gain. When I conſider of the bleſſed and heavenly Opportunities, and wonderful Appearances of God, in, by, and through him many a time amongſt God's People, when met together, my Heart is truly broken and tendred (even as at this preſent time;) and this is my belief of him, he was a man well-beloved of God, and alſo of his People every where, that had a true knowledge of him, and the great Power of God did mightily attend him, and his preſence comfort him; and many ſweet and pretious Teſtimonies have ſounded through him, to the *comforting* & *refreſhing* of God's People in their Aſſemblies. He was convinc'd of *God's* heavenly Way and pretious Truth thirty Years ſince and upward, and hath born a faithful and living Teſtimony for God ever ſince, not only in Words, but

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in Life and Converſation, and alſo in Sufferings, both in this Nation, and in the Nation of *Ireland*; he was a man not ſubject to Paſſion (that ever I did ſee) but meek and gentle and of a healing Spirit.

Given forth the 18*th Day of the* 8*th Month*, 1690. *By*

Miles Oddy *ſenior.*

The Testimony of *Thomas Hardcastle* senior, concerning *Robert Lodge*.

IN the tenderness and brokenness of Heart, and in the remembrance of the goodness of the Lord am I made willing to give forth this Testimony concerning my dear Friend and Brother *Robert Lodge*: In his young Years we travelled many Miles together, and great was his Care at that day, in much love to bring me to the knowledge of the Truth, sparing no Labour nor Pains, in much patience and good-will his endeavour hath been among us, and the Power and Presence of God hath mightily appeared in and through him many a time, and in Innocency his labour hath been; and great have been his Exercises and Abuses that he received from unreasonable men, but the

the Lord did uphold him, and carry him on in his bleſſed Work; and many heavenly Teſtimonies hath the Lord enabled him to bear, and our Hearts many times have been comforted together, and filled with Praiſes to his holy Name. And this dear Servant of the Lord he was lowly in Mind, tender in Spirit, lovely in Behaviour, his Miniſtry very precious; and truly the Gifts and Graces the Lord beſtowed on him were very large, and in the ſame hath he finiſhed, and laid down, and is gone to Everlaſting Reſt with the Lord forever and evermore.

This ſhort Teſtimony is given forth in the love of God, by him who is a Lover of Truth and Righteouſneſs,

Thomas Hardcaſtle *ſenior.*

Katherine Winn's Testimony concerning *Robert Lodge*.

THE Memory of the Just, and Travels of the Righteous are worthy to be kept in remembrance, and left upon Record to future Ages, in which I am concerned according to my little measure, in a short Testimony for our dear Friend and well-beloved Brother *Robert Lodge* who is now deceased, and his Travels at an end, but many are in being who have reaped the benefit thereof; his lot fell to be in our part in the time of my Convinceemen and I being a Woman of a dejected Mind, he was the first that ever reached me with Words of Comfort which were so printed in my heart and ingraven in my mind, that it never yet was raced out, but often was a strengthening to me through my Exercise

Exercises, and a confirmation of the love of God to my Soul: It was afterwards my happiness to be of the same Meeting, where many were the Spiritual Comforts I received by him; he proclaimed Liberty to the Captives, and spoke comfortable words to the Mourners in *Sion*, his Words were as healing Medicines, & as *Gillead's* Balm to many wounded and weary Souls, and that which he planted was frequently watered by him: O the watering Seasons we have had, that Fountain whic frequently opened in him, the Rivers and Streams thereof that were conveyed by him to many a thirsty travelling Soul, did fill our Hearts with unutterable Joy and unexpressable Gladness, which causeth a Lamentation to be taken up by us for want of such a be-dewing Instrument, and loving Nursing-Father: he was a Son of Consolation, a planter indeed, and also a waterer of the Lord's Plantation, and frequently accompanied with

with the living preſence and power of our heavenly God, which gives the increaſe: He was a ſympathizer with innocent Friends in Joy and in Sorrow; he could mourn with thoſe that mourned, and rejoyce with thoſe that rejoyced, yet his care was over the weak and hindermoſt of the Flock; and we are bowed in Spirit, for want of him, for his preſence could greatly have been deſired by us, and needful for us; but he is diſſolved, and I believe is now with Chriſt, which for him is far better; and it is our hope, which bears up our Spirits, that the Lord will raiſe up Inſtruments to carry on his own Work to his own praiſes; and he giveth and he taketh, bleſſed be his Name for ever.

The time of his Sickneſs being ſhort, at which time I had been weak and but little recovered, I had word if ever I thought to ſee him, I might venture to go; & the next day I went with my Brother to viſit him, and found

found him very weak; he looking up, (and saw me full of Sorrow) with a pleasant Countenance, yet in much brokenness, cheerfully said, *What Woman, we must meet again, we must meet again in Eternity.* And sitting by him, he gave me an account of his Distemper, and of the exercise of his mind, and the dealings of the Lord with him, and said, *The Lord knoweth I never was Commissionated by him to go any way, or to do any thing, but I have willingly answered him, and the Lord who hath been my Rock and Refuge, my Shield and Buckler, and a Sanctuary to me, hath been with me all along to this very day.* With many such Expressions, and in much brokenness and tenderness of Spirit he rendred Thanksgiving unto the Lord; and being weak he seemingly fell asleep, and I retiredly sat by him, and that Life wherein we had often reached one another did spring, and his Mouth was opened in heavenly Expressions, and pure Praises

to the Lord for his many Deliverances and great Preſervations, and the continuance of his living preſence, and the opening of the Fountain of his Life and Love unto us to this very day and time, with heavenly Supplications unto the Lord for the continuance of his Loving-kindneſs and tender Mercies to his whole Heritage every where; his Exerciſe continued for a conſiderable ſeaſon, as if he had been in a Meeting, with much brokenneſs of Heart, and tenderneſs of Spirit, as a man filled with heavenly and divine matter, which very much broke my Heart, with his Son *Nathan* then by him, which I hope will never be forgotten by me: And after this he weakened very faſt, it being about the third hour of the day; he did ſpeak little more to me, yet ſignifying his gladneſs of my recovery, and alſo of my company, and that all was well with him; and falling into a Slumber and Reſt more ſweet and comfortable, as we thought

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than his uſual Sleep had been to him at other times, in much quiet and great meekneſs he departed this Life about the firſt hour that Night. And though he be dead, his Works live to praiſe the Lord, and great was the Work of his Day, in turning many from Darkneſs to Light, and from the power of Satan to the living God; he bore the burthen in heat of the day, and was a true Traveller for *Sion's* ſake; his Life was comfortable, his latter end happy, he lived the Life of the Righteous, and his latter end was like his: And it is the fervent deſire of my Heart the Lord will be pleaſed in love to his whole Flock, and for his own Honour and great Name ſake, to raiſe up ſerviceable Inſtruments in his Work, ſuch work-men as need not be aſhamed of their work, but can rightly divide the Word of Truth, ſuch Labourers in his Vineyard as may gather many Sheaves into his Barn, and Lambs into his Fold,

as

as this our deceased Brother did; in the days of his Youth, and in his tender years, he thought not his Life dear to venture both by Sea and Land in this Nation, and elsewhere, and was instrumental in the Lord's hand, to pluck many as Lambs out of the Wolves mouth, and Brands out of the Fire, which are as Monuments of the Lord's mercy this day to praise him: And as his Body decayed and strength failed, great was his Travel, and many his Supplications to the Lord on the behalf of young Friends, that they might rise in their Day and Age to serve and honour him in their Generation. O the Travels, with the sweet flowing streams of Love reached to us by him can never be forgotten! O the melodious sound, that heavenly Harmony, the eccho of Life which often sounded through him, made the Morning-Stars to sing, and the Saints to shout for joy! O what can I say of him! I am not able to express

preſs or utter the excellency of the Work of this the Lord's worthy, but hopes it will be done by others better accompliſhed for ſuch a Work than I; but in the diſcharge of what hath lain upon me, according to my little meaſure in this ſhort Teſtimony to leave to Poſterity, and for the encouragement of a future Age, to keep in the Line of Life, and walk in the Path of the Juſt, where heavenly Felicity is to be attained and enjoyed, and Spiritual Pleaſures lived in, which the Almighty in his unchangeable Love hath been pleaſed to continue from Age to Age, and by a mighty hand reached from one Generation to another, that in every Age his own Works may praiſe him, to whom all Praiſes doth belong (and is freely aſcribed from my Soul) now henceforth, and for ever.

Katherine Winn.

The Teſtimony of *Chriſtopher Blackburne*, concerning my dear Friend *Robert Lodge*, who departed this Life the 16th Day of the 7th Month, 1690.

Dear Friends,

I could not with clearneſs be ſilent in this matter, becauſe I found it as a Duty incumbent upon me, being one of the ſame Meeting, to write a little amongſt my Brethren, concerning this faithful Champion of the *Lord*, whom he hath taken to himſelf, and is at Reſt with him, who is over all, God bleſſed forever. I being but young in years, have not been ſo long acquainted with him as many have been, but what I know I ſhall write: He was a man that ever had a tender regard over me

me, and other young Friends; and I can truly say, his Counsel and Advice to me when I was a Child, was reaching, and I hope will never be raced out of my remembrance; and as I grew up I loved him as my Father, he was of a lovely Countenance, and an undaunted Spirit; his Service was much in the Ministry, he had a quick discerning in a Meeting: Oh how hath he laboured for the good of a Meeting, and if at any time a Vail hath been over, or that any seemed to be unconcerned, Oh how he would have been weighted, and laboured to with-draw the Vail, and raise the Life at such a time; and on the contrary, when the Life was up in a Meeting, and that he saw Friends in a Heavenly Order, Oh it was Marrow to his Bones, his very Countenance was comfortable to the Meeting; and his Travel, especially in the latter part of his days, was much for the settling the Meeting in a divine Order; and his Prayer for

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us that were young, was frequent in this manner; *Heavenly God, ingraft thy heavenly Truth in the Hearts of our Children, that they may ſtand up to bear Witneſs for thee, when it ſhall pleaſe thee to take us hence.*

Now I come to his Sickneſs and Death, which was on this manner, Upon that 4th day at Evening I went to ſee him, as was my uſual manner, when in that Town, not knowing that he was Sick, ſo asked him how he did; he ſaid, *He had a very bad Night the Night before, but was ſomething better*: He alſo told me how it was with him, and ſaid, *That many had dyed of the like Diſtemper, but whether I dye or not, the Will of the Lord be done.* So I went over Night to ſee him, and he grew weaker and weaker, yet he was able to go till the Firſt Day, and after the Meeting that day he got up by help, for then he was taken with a ſtrong Feaver, which grew extreamly upon him; and as he was getting up, he ſaid,

Bleſſed

Bleſſed be God, I have Heavenly Peace. So after a while I going away, took my leave of him, for I had a ſenſe of his Death; and he ſaid to me, *He was freely given up to the Will of God.* So the next day I went again, but was not preſent when he did declare, but I underſtood it was powerful as at other times; ſo in the Evening I went, but he was in a ſweet Sleep, and ſo continued till about the firſt or ſecond Hour the next Morning, and ſo departed this Life in a Heavenly frame, and is at Reſt with God, whom he ſerved to the utmoſt of his Power. I can truly ſay, he was a man worthy of Everlaſting Remembrance, and one of the Worthies of God's *Iſrael.* So ſeeing it was the pleaſure of the great God to take him from us, it is the deſire of my heart, that I with the reſt of God's People may be kept and preſerved in God's heavenly Truth, as this man was, ſo ſhall we meet again in God's Kingdom, where we ſhall

receive

receive the full of what we enjoy the Earneſt of here.

So ſeeing it hath been the pleaſure of God, who is the Orderer of all things, and hath the Souls and Bodies of all Men at his diſpoſe, to take this dear Friend from us, we have reaſon to be content, knowing that our Loſs is his Gain, our Sorrow his Joy, I cannot but return him the Praiſe, who is God over all, bleſſed for ever and evermore; *Amen.*

Chriſtopher Blackburne.

The

The Teſtimony of *Rebecca Blackburne* concerning *Robert Lodge*, who departed this Life the 16th Day of the 7th Month, 1690.

HE was a dear and loving Friend towards me, and his deſire was much for the proſperity of Truth, it was great joy to him to hear that the Truth proſpered, eſpecially in thoſe that were young, and that they might bear their Teſtimonies for the Lord, after the deceaſe of the Elders: One time after the Meeting, he looking towards a young Girle, turned him about, and ſaid, *The Lord bleſs you all Children*: which cauſed me to ſay within my ſelf, Whither is he going?

Now seeing the Lord hath taken him from us, he is able to preserve those that are left behind, and will do as we put our trust in him.

So to him that orders all things according to his pleasure, do I return all the Honour and Glory, both now henceforth, and for evermore; *Amen.*

Rebecca Blackburne.

The

The Testimony of *Ann Blackburne* concerning *Robert Lodge*.

THis dear Friend I knew him from a Child, and was acquainted with him from his Youth: He was of a quick apprehension, and had much discourse with one *Anthony Procter*, and other Priests in the days of *Oliver Cromwell*, but they were always put to the worst by him: He was of a Valient Spirit from his Youth upward; and it was great gladness of heart to me to see him in a Meeting; it was also great Sorrow to me to part with so near a Friend; but seeing it was the pleasure of God to take him from us, [illegible]y belief he is at rest with him, who is God, blessed for evermore.

Ann Blackburne.

The Teſtimony of *Alice Clarke* concerning *Robert Lodge*.

THis is my Teſtimony for my dear Friend *Robert Lodge* of *Maſſam*, lately deceaſed; he was an Inſtrument in the hand of the Lord, and the Lord by him wrought upon the Hearts of many, to turn them out of the broad way of deſtruction, into the narrow way that leads to Life and Salvation; and good cauſe have I amongſt many more to praiſe the Lord that ever I was acquainted with him: I being of the Meeting that he was of, was many a time ſweetly refreſhed and comforted, which I hope ſhall never be forgotten of me, nor raced out of my remembrance; and though he be gone from us, yet his Spirit is with us in our Meetings, as we come to the Spirits of juſt men made perfect; he had

had a heavenly Gift, and had good skill to use it, so that he got love of most that knew him. He was taken away of a short Sickness, and what he spake relating to Truth in the time thereof, was much to the satisfaction of all that loved him, for he largely signified the love of God to his Soul at that time: He was in his Day a true Traveller in the Lord's Service; and doubtless he hath received his Reward, and though he be taken from us, I doubt not but the Lord will raise many faithful Witnesses to bear a Testimony to his Name, that he may have Honour, to whom all Honour is due.

Alice Clarke.

A Testimony concerning our dear Friend and Brother in the Lord *Robert Lodge.*

WHo was a *Yorkshire* man, and dyed in the Lord, in the Year 1690. when he had fulfilled his Ministry, and finished his Testimony, who was often under great Persecution, Sufferings and Spoiling of Goods, which through the assistance in the Lord's Power he went through them all joyfully, and many times had great Exercise with Backsliders, Apostates and Prophane. He was a man that laboured and travelled, and had a great Care upon him for the Peace of the Church of Christ, and his Government of Peace, the encrease of which there is no end;

end; he travelled up and down in many places in *England*, freely preaching the Everlasting Gospel of our Lord and Saviour, and did turn many to it, being a man much indued with the Gifts of God, and being an Elder and Pillar in the Church of Christ; he travelled with me up and down in *Ireland*, jeopardied his Life among the *Priests* and *Papists* there, in the Year, 1669, where there were many large and pretious Meetings of the Lord's People; and the Lord's Presence and Power was among us and them. And when we had finished our Testimony there, we came over into *England*, and in it he travelled up and down, visiting the Churches of Christ, and turned many to the Lord; and he dyed in the Lord in *Yorkshire*, and is blessed, and entred into his Rest, and is ceased from his Labours, and his Works follow him. And much more might be writ of his faithful Labour in the Lord, who was

well

well known in the Church of Christ, who preacht in his good Life and Conversation, as well as in his Doctrine, and was much beloved; and he will be missed in the Church of Christ, but the Lord can raise up more faithful Labourers in his Gospel to stand in his place; *Amen.*

The 13th of the 9th Month, 1690. G. F.

An

An Epistle TO FRIENDS,

Written from *Chambrussel*, in the County of *Armagh* in *Ireland*, the 24th of the 4th Month, 1660.

MY dearly beloved Friends, with whom I have Unity in the unchangeable Love and Life in the Lord Jesus, in whom we receive pure and living Consolation, whereby the Seed is refreshed, which breaths and thirsts after the Fountain of Love and Mercy, which tenderly falls down upon the upright in Heart as Dew to the tender Herb, whereby that which hath been in the want

comes to be satisfied, and filled with the living Vertue, which comes from the presence of the Lord; and in this my dearly beloved Friends I salute you in the Fountain of Love, Life, and endless Joy, which is shed abroad in my heart, which streams forth it self through me, whereby the Seed is refreshed; and in this feel me as you are felt, in the measure of the unchangeable Life of God, in which I rejoyce, feeling you in that which is everlasting, in which my Unity stands with you, who are of a broken and contrite Heart, who are kept in a feeling of the dreadful presence of God. And therefore wait all Friends to feel the Power which raises the Seed immortal, to which the Promise of Blessing is due, which Seed the Lord is satisfying with the breakings forth of his Love, in all them who in patience are kept waiting to feel the operation of God's living Power; for by the Power of God comes the

Seed

Seed to be brought out of the weary Land, which the Lord abundantly waters in all the Faithful, who in faithfulneſs are kept near unto the Seed, ſuch come to receive of the loving-kindneſs of God, and to partake of his ſweet Mercies, which daily are felt, to the glory of the Lord for ever. Therefore my dearly beloved *Friends*, wait in the Light the Power to feel, that you may be kept ſafe in the Arms of the Lord's love, that you may be ſhadowed over with the Power of the Moſt High God, which is our ſtrength and daily ſupport, wherein we feel the Spirit of the Lord lifting up a Standard againſt all the Enemies of the Seed.

So dear Hearts, be ſtayed in the Light, continually to feel the dreadful Power of God accompanying you, unto which all your Enemies muſt become ſubject, whoſe Power and Preſence is felt, wherein our Souls rejoyce, who hath enlarged our

hearts, and filled us with the heavenly joy; for in him we have Peace and Comfort; therefore be not cast down at the sight of Affliction, but all be watchful and deligent, to feel the pure workings of the Spirit of Life, whereby a change may be wrought in your Hearts, and you raised above the Grave, by the quickening Power of the Almighty God, for in this is Comfort and Refreshment felt, and Peace and pure Love, which many Waters cannot quench; and in this all wait to be knit up and united, that the one Fountain of Love and Mercy may be every particulars satisfaction and reward. So rest your Friend in the Truth,

Robert Lodge.

Let this be sent to Hardcastle-Garth, *and so to* Masham.

A Salutation of Love from the Opening of the Springs of eternal Life, unto the Flock of God in Bonds, or elsewhere, scattered upon the Earth, but are one in the endless Life of God, Greeting.

DEar Friends, whom the Lord hath visited with the Day spring from on high, and unto whom the Lord hath made known his Power, and the Arm of his strength for your deliverance, from the deep captivity that your Souls lay in, in times past, when there was none to help you, nor to comfort you; when you spent your days in mourning, for want of the presence of the Lord: and in that day did the Lord hear your groans, and the sighs of your Spirits, and he appeared for your comfort, when you were comfort-

leſs; and in that day the Lord made known his Judgments in you, for the purging of the Droſs out of you, that way might be made in you for the ſweet diſpencing forth of his Mercies: And ſince the Lord prepared you for himſelf, by the work of his own Spirit, how hath he let forth himſelf unto you, to the making of your Hearts glad, and to the overcoming your Souls with the ſtrength of his love? that hath made you to ſay in ſecret, who is like to the Lord, or what is to be compared with his love? and when your hearts were thus diſpoſed of by him for whom you had waited, what was all the worlds glory to you; for this was more to you than all, whoſe hearts were opened in the ſence of the want of him? And now ſeeing the Lord hath done ſuch great things for you, it is the pleaſure of your God to *try your love* unto himſelf, whether you can follow him to the loſs of all things in this World, yea or nay, for

ſuch

ſuch a Birth the life of God hath been long travelling for, and now they are bleſſed that can ſay, This birth is brought forth, in which they can give up all for the enjoyment of the Lord, who hath turned a Wilderneſs into a fruitful Land, and a fruitful Land into barrenneſs in the inward; and he likewiſe is able to make it ſo outwardly, for them that believe and follow him in faithfulneſs unto the end. So my well-beloved in the Lord, who have felt his Judgments & Mercies in your Hearts, who by the ſame are ingaged to follow the Lord, and hold forth your Teſtimonies for his righteous Name, bleſſed you are, as you abide in the overcoming love of God, by which your hearts have been drawn after the Lord, and after a further enjoyment of his Life, who cannot be ſatisfied without the freſh breakings in of his Love into your hearts. Oh bleſſed are you for ever, however the Lord may diſpoſe of you as to the

outward man; the Lord will be unto you as the ſhadow of a mighty Rock in a weary Land; you are the begotten of himſelf by the Word of his Power, he will nouriſh you by the vertue of his own life, and by the ſweetneſs of his own love, and this being felt, it makes all eaſie and delightſome whatſoever, for there is nothing to be compared with this love of our God. Therefore ariſe you Sons and Daughters of the Lord, and ſhew forth the love that you bear to him, that all may know whoſe off-ſpring you are, and how highly you eſteem of the goodneſs of God, that you can forſake all for him, and the light of his countenance, which is more to you than all the world. Oh Friends, it is for your ſakes that the Lord hath done great things already, and yet will the Lord do greater things in the Earth for you, as in the heavenly life you abide, the Lord will ariſe for your help in the time of your diſtreſs and

need;

need; And therefore fear not you the wrath of man, nor the fury of the ungodly, but in the life look unto the Rock of your Salvation, and he will beautifie you with the Robes of Righteousneſs, and with the Garments of Praiſes, that all may ſee and confeſs, to the glory of him that hath ſhined forth of *Sion* this day. And dear Friends, you that have felt the love of God, in gathering you out of the world, and in preſerving you unto this day; let the kindneſs of the Lord, and the compaſſion that he hath ſhewed to you, be an ingagement upon your hearts, to walk with the Lord in faithfulneſs, that as the Lord hath watered your Souls with the ſtreams of life, and pure love from day to day, and from time to time, he might ſtill continue the ſame to you unto the end of your days, that your bloſſom thereby may not wither, but be kept beautiful in the Eyes of the Lord, that his delight may be in you to do you good,

to

to rejoyce over you in his love, as it hath been in times past, that by the same we might grow further in love with him, and be more and more affected with his glory, that however it be permitted to fall out concerning these Bodies, we may be the Lord's, and be the lot of our Inheritance; Then shall we be constrained to say, *Our lot is fallen in good Ground*: And therefore you tender Babes, be not discouraged nor amazed at the face of things, for mighty is the Lord who is with us, and glorious is his Arm that doth compass us about this day, and pure is the Food that the Lord is feeding the tender spirited withal, which makes us undervalue all the world, and its glory, because our hearts are ravished with the love of God, which *wonderfully* is made manifest this day; glory be to the Name of the Lord for ever, who breaks in upon us by the force of his love daily, so that our Souls are become as watered Gardens,

through

— 1699 —

through the showring down of his Blessings, wherewith my Soul is visited at this time, and in which I do visit you all in the life of God, in Bonds, or elsewhere who are called to bear witness for the Lord, in this trying, but not destroying day, that the purpose of our God may be fulfilled, and his determination compleated, that the works of the Lord may bring him praise in the Gates of the wicked, who alone is worthy of Glory and Honour, for ever and ever, saith my Soul.

From a Friend to all the upright hearted People of God, that wait for the building of distressed Sion, *known by the Name of*

Robert Lodge.

Given forth at the House of Correction in Wakefield, *the 9th Day of the third Month,* 1665.

A Testimony concerning the Life and Death of our dear Friend and Brother in the Lord *John Stubbs*.

HE received the Lord's Truth in 1653. at *Carlile*, and forsook much for it, and did Travel with me in the Lord's Service up and down in *England*: And he was a Scholar, and an excellent Writer, and a notable Minister of the Gospel of Christ, and went through many Sufferings and Hardships for the Gospel's sake; and after he and *William Caton* for declaring the Truth at *Maidstone* in *Kent*, the Magistrates and wicked Priests and Professors caused them to be set in the Stocks, and Whipt, and put out of the Town,

Town, about 1652 in *Oliver Cromwell*'s days: and he having been a *Baptist*, did convince some of them, and turned many to the Lord: And after he, and *Samuel Fisher* who had been a *Baptist*, and a *Parish-Priest*, travelled to *Rome* through those dark Countries, and they having cast some of our Friends into the *Inquisition*, all was shut up; but only they had some Service for the Lord with some *Cardinals*, and the *Jews*, and some *Monks* and *Fryers*, and such like; and they confest it was the Truth; but if they should confess it openly they would burn them. And about the Year 1660. he and some other Friends had it in their minds to go to the *East-Indies*, and the *East-India*-Company would not let them go in their Ships; and they got an order from the King to let them go, and they would not obey it. And then they went into *Holland* to get passage there for the *East-Indies*, and they also denyed them; and then they took

took Shiping, and went as far as *Egypt* to [illegible] the *East-Indies* by *Caravan*, where the *English Consul* banished them out of *Egypt*; and then they came to *England* again, after they had had some Service for the Lord in several places. And *John Stubbs* the Lord let him see that the *English* and the *Dutch* would go to War one with another, which not long after came to pass. And about the Year 1670. he Travelled with with me to *Barbadoes*, and also he went to *New-England*, where he laboured in the Grace of God, and had a good Service for the Lord; and from thence he went to *Barbadoes* again, freely preaching the everlasting Gospel of Christ, and then he came into *England*; and when he had fulfilled his Ministry, and finished his Testimony, he dyed in the Lord, and is at Rest and Peace with him, and is blessed, and ceased from his Labours, and his Works follow him: And he departed this Life near *London*,

London, about 1673. He was a wise Man, and sought the Peace of the Church of Christ, and was a good Example: he preacht in good Life and Conversation, as well as good Doctrine, and was zealous, and never turned from the Lord from his first receiving of him, but bore all his Sufferings and Reproaches faithfully for the Name of Jesus, who was one of his Followers, and was many times exercised with Apostates and Prophane, and had Tryals by false Brethren, but the Lord in his Power gave him Dominion over them all, blessed be his Name for ever; *Amen*.

The 13th of the 9th Month, 1690. } G. F.

THE END.